AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings because Figures 1-8 do not contain suitable legends necessary to understand the drawing and because the amendments to Figures 1 and 2 do not comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.84.

The Examiner notes that, "The amendment to drawings have identified elements A, B, C, D, and Z, in Figures 1 and 2, but have not identified the remaining elements in Figures 1-8." In response to the Examiner's objection, we have amended the remaining elements in Figures 1-8 so that they are adequately described in the figures.

The Examiner also states that "the drawings contain information relating to the associated Patent Application Publication in the upper margin. The drawings further provide the identification information and 'Replacement Sheet' markings in the bottom right hand corner, and not in the top margin." In response to the Examiner's objection, we have removed the information relating to the associated Patent Application Publication in the upper margin and moved the identification information and 'Replacement Sheet' marking from the bottom right hand corner to the top margin.

Pursuant to MPEP 608.02(w), these drawing changes are made without annotated sheets since these corrections are "not involving change in structure" of the drawings, but merely identifying remaining elements in the figures.

We respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

<u>REMARKS</u>

In the Office Action claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, and 18 are pending. Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 8 is objected to. Claims 1-4, 7-13, and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, and 18 are canceled. New claims 21-40 are added.

A copy of "Controller area network (CAN) B Part 4: Time-triggered Communication" is included in this response.

Replacement drawing sheets are submitted including suitable legends.

The specification is amended to remove any embedded hyperlinks or other form of browser executable code. Additionally, the specification is amended to include proper section headings consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.77(b). The specification is also amended to recite the priority claim reflected in the Application Data Sheet filed with this application.

Requirement for Information

The Examiner notes that we are required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.105 to provide a copy of "Controller area network (CAN) B Part 4: Time-triggered Communication" ISO/CD 11898-4, cited as reference "CA" in the Information Disclosure Statement of 2 October 2008. In response, the document requested in the outstanding Office Action is being submitted concurrently herewith in an Information Disclosure Statement.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15-16, and 18 are canceled. We respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.
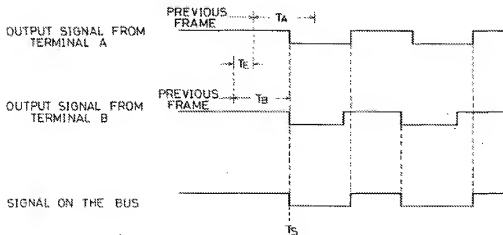
Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because, in line 7, the comma following the word "receiver" has been incorrectly used.

Claim 8 is canceled. We respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Claim Rejections under 37 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-13, and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,719,620 to Machino et al. (hereinafter "Machino") and Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ("AAPA").

Machino teaches a system for signal transmission in a bus-type network. Machino's configuration provides a signal transmission system that avoids "data destruction" by having "the frame-start timing of one terminal … synchronized with that of the other." Machino at Col. 3, lines 36-38. Machino's FIG. 5 (reproduced below) provides insight into the described synchronization of the frame-start timing of one terminal with the other.

F I G. 5

As disclosed by Machino, data destruction is avoided by synchronizing the frame-start timing of one terminal with the other in one of two ways. First, "if a terminal does not detect a frame-start signal on the bus, it outputs the next frame immediately after the predetermined period elapses, as the terminal B does in FIG. 5." Machino at Col. 3, lines 43-47. Otherwise, "if a terminal detects a frame-start signal during the predetermined period, the terminal starts frame transmission immediately in synchronization with the detected start signal, as the terminal A does in FIG. 5." Machino at Col. 3, lines 47-51. This configuration allows "the frames by the terminals A and B (to) start simultaneously, so that collision, if any, can be detected within the frames, enabling the data on the bus to be received correctly." Machino at Col. 3, lines 53-56. Machine specifically states that "[t]o avoid the data destruction [caused by clock pulse error], the frame-start timing of one terminal _must be synchronized_ with that of the other." Machino at Col. 3, lines 36-38.

In contrast to these specific teachings of Machino, claim 21 recites "the at least one message is transmitted on the bus in relation to the actual schedule" where "the actual schedule . . . is set in relation to the at least one virtual clock." Independent claims 33 and 38 recite similar elements. Machino never discusses or suggests an actual schedule or virtual clock as recited in the claims.

Moreover, the Examiner relied on the AAPA to show that CAN systems are well known. The AAPA does not show the elements of the claims discussed above.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully submit that claims 21, 33, and 38 are allowable over Machino and the admitted prior art.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figures 1-8 do not contain suitable legends necessary to understand the drawing and because the amendments do not comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.84.

Replacement drawing sheets are submitted that include suitable legends. No new matter is added. We respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Objections to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code for http://www.ttpforum.org.

The specification is amended to remove any embedded hyperlink or other form of browser-executable code. No new matter is added. We respectfully submit that this objection is overcome.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed 2 October 2008 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) because a copy of reference "CA" has not been provided. The Examiner also noted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed 2 October 2008 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1).

As mentioned above, a copy of reference "CA" is being submitted with this response. We therefore respectfully submit that these objections are overcome.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required with respect to this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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Appendix